

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for trimming nails comprising:

2 applying an abrasive surface coupled to a moving member against both an
3 extended nail portion and a surrounding epidermal tissue portion to cause a grinding action on
4 the extended nail portion, the abrasive surface coupled to the moving member being driven by an
5 electric drive device coupled to the moving member; and

6 whereupon the abrasive surface as applied to both the extended nail portion and
7 the surrounding epidermal tissue portion is characterized by a predetermined speed, a
8 predetermined action, and a selected texture to remove the nail portion by the grinding action
9 while maintaining the surrounding epidermal tissue substantially free from any physical damage.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined action is selected from
2 an oscillating movement, a rotating movement, a lateral movement, a vibrating movement, an
3 orbital movement, or a combination of these movements.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein abrasive surface is applied to both the
2 portion of the nail and the surrounding epidermal tissue at a predetermined force, the force
3 ranging from an upper end to a lower end, the upper end being hundreds of times that of the
4 lower end, the predetermined force being selected by a user.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined force at the upper end
2 stops the moving member.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined speed is a variable
2 parameter or a fixed parameter.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the moving member and the abrasive
2 surface being coupled with a shock resistant material, the shock resistant material being coupled
3 to a backside surface of the abrasive surface, the shock resistant allowing the abrasive surface to
4 conform to a contour of the nail portion or the epidermal tissue portion to cause the grinding
5 action.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the abrasive material and related elements
2 are removable and replaceable from the moving member.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the moving member is coupled to a
2 housing, the housing being an elongated member capable of being held by a hand along a first
3 portion and being coupled to the moving member along a second portion.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined speed is a constant or a
2 variable or a variable dependent upon a force of applying.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein a switch operatively connected to the
2 electric drive device provides momentary and continuous operation of the moving member.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the abrasive material is selected from a
2 material ranging from the equivalent of about 50 grit to 15,000 grit.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the abrasive material surface having a
2 graphical design to provide a pattern during movement of the movable member.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the pattern indicates a velocity of the
2 abrasive material.

1 14. A method for trimming nails comprising:
2 applying an abrasive surface coupled to a moving member against an extended
3 nail portion to initiate a grinding action on the extended nail portion, the abrasive surface
4 coupled to the moving member being driven by an electric drive device coupled to the moving
5 member; and

6 protecting the surrounding epidermal tissue using a protective device, the
7 protective device exposing at least the extended nail portion;
8 whereupon the abrasive surface as applied to the extended nail portion is
9 characterized by a predetermined speed, a predetermined action, and a selected texture to remove
10 the nail portion by the grinding action while the protective device keeps the surrounding
11 epidermal tissue substantially free from any physical damage.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined action is selected from
2 an oscillating movement, a rotating movement, a lateral movement, a vibrating movement, an
3 orbital movement, or a combination of these movements.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein abrasive surface is applied to both the
2 portion of the nail and the surrounding epidermal tissue at a predetermined force, the force
3 ranging from an upper end to a lower end, the upper end being hundreds of times that of the
4 lower end, the predetermined force being selected by a user.

1 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined force at the upper end
2 stops the moving member.

1 18. The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined speed is a variable
2 parameter or a fixed parameter.

1 19. The method of claim 14 wherein the moving member and the abrasive
2 surface being coupled with a shock resistant material, the shock resistant material being coupled
3 to a backside surface of the abrasive surface, the shock resistant allowing the abrasive surface to
4 conform to a contour of the nail portion or the epidermal tissue portion to cause the grinding
5 action.

1 20. The method of claim 14 wherein the abrasive material and related
2 elements are removable and replaceable from the moving member.

1 21. The method of claim 14 wherein the moving member is coupled to a
2 housing, the housing being an elongated member capable of being held by a hand along a first
3 portion and being coupled to the moving member along a second portion.

1 22. The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined speed is a constant or
2 a variable or a variable dependent upon a force of applying.

1 23. The method of claim 14 wherein a switch operatively connected to the
2 electric drive device provides momentary and continuous operation of the moving member.

1 24. The method of claim 14 wherein the abrasive material is selected from a
2 material ranging from the equivalent of about 50 grit to 15,000 grit.

1 25. The method of claim 14 wherein the abrasive material surface having a
2 graphical design to provide a pattern during movement of the movable member.

1 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the pattern indicates a velocity of the
2 abrasive material.

1 27. An apparatus for trimming nails, the apparatus comprising:
2 a mobile housing comprising an elongated body member;
3 an electric drive device within and coupled to the housing, the electric drive
4 device having a transfer member;
5 a movable head coupled to the transfer member of the electric drive device, the
6 movable head being adapted to receive mechanical energy from the electric drive device through
7 the transfer member;
8 an abrasive surface coupled to the movable head, the abrasive surface being
9 capable of a grinding action; and
10 a shock absorbing member coupled between the movable head and abrasive
11 surface, the shock absorbing member being capable of allowing the abrasive member to conform
12 onto a non-conformal surface.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the shock absorbing member is a
2 resilient, conforming mechanism that is selected from a compliant mechanical means, foam, or
3 elastomer.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising a protective device coupled
2 to the housing, the protective device allowing a portion of the abrasive surface to be exposed.